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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Thou Giver of every good and perfect gift, satisfy the hungers of our hearts, minds, and souls. Make us to lie down in green pastures and restore our souls. Lead us in the paths of righteousness that we may live with integrity.

Guide our Senators. Grant them the courage to give themselves to the discipline of introspection that enables them to hear Your voice. Awaken them to the fact that truth is more than theory but commands a commitment. Help them to discipline themselves to follow the truth wherever it leads. Motivate them by the magnitude of the responsibilities You have entrusted to them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if he chooses to make any remarks, the Senate will adopt the motion to proceed to H.R. 3221 and Senator DODD or his designee will be recognized to offer a substitute amendment on his behalf and that of Senator SHELBY. Following opening statements by Senators DODD and SHELBY, Senator DURBIN will be recognized to offer an amendment related to bankruptcy.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2807, S. 2808, S. 2809, S. 2810, AND S. 2811

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are five bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2807) to protect the liberty and property of all Americans.

A bill (S. 2808) to require that citizens within a National Heritage Area are informed of the designation and that government officials must receive permission to enter private property.

A bill (S. 2809) to ensure that there are no adverse effects of a National Heritage Area designation to local communities and home owners.

A bill (S. 2810) to require an annual report detailing the amount of property the federal

government owns and the cost of government land ownership to taxpayers.

A bill (S. 2811) to require citizens' approval of federal government land grabs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings regarding these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection being heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

HOUSING DEBATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate is evenly divided: 51 Democrats, 49 Republicans. Is the bill that is going to be the subject matter of the housing debate perfect? It is not perfect. But with the Senate as evenly divided as it is, we have to work on a compromise basis. We are not going to get everything we want. The Republicans are not going to get everything they want.

I was interested to see people in the press today telling us how they could have done a much better job on this work Senators DODD and SHELBY have done. I am satisfied with what we have. Is it everything I want? Of course not. If I were a dictator, I would come up with a different bill. But I am not. The Senate is such that everyone's rights are protected. When you have a body that is so evenly divided, with the procedures we have in the Senate, there has to be compromise.

I admire and congratulate Senators DODD and SHELBY for working this out to the point where we are. I have complimented them on a number of occasions. The last time I did it was last night, indicating what good work they have done.

But, also, to get this bill where it is now, we needed cooperation from other people: for example, those who run the Finance Committee—Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY. There are some tax measures in this housing bill, and they had to sign off on that. They did that. Their staffs worked hand in hand with the Banking Committee staff, and we have their product.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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